

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

S E C R E T STATE 207223

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABU DHABI 2208 ACTION SECSTATE 15 AUG 78.

QUOTE: S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PPDC TC US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO UAE PRESIDENT - CAMP DAVID MIDDLE

EAST TALKS

REF: STATE 205971

1. WITH UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID CURRENTLY AT DESERT RETREAT SOUTH OF AL AIN, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MY AUGUST 15 SCHEDULED MEETING WITH MINISTER OF STATE RASHID ABDALLAH TO DELIVER TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S

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LETTER CONVEYED REFTEL TO UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID. MINISTER OF STATE ABDALLAH SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING SHAIKH ZAYID LATE THIS EVENING AND WOULD BRING LETTER ALONG WITH ARABIC TRANSLATION PREPARED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT HIS HIGHNESS WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWS.

2. IN CONVEYING TEXT OF LETTER, ABDALLAH HAD FOLLOWING INTERESTING COMMENTS TO REPORT. HE HAD SPENT MUCH OF PREVIOUS DAY WITH VISITING SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER SECRETARY ADB AL RAHAM AL MANSOURI AND DISCUSSION HAD CENTERED PRIMARILY ON FORTHCOMING CAMP DAVID TALKS. MANSOURI HAD REPORTED THAT KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER THROUGH AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WHICH APPEARED TO CONTAIN MANY OF SAME POINTS CONVEYED IN PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SAIKH ZAYID. MANSOURI HAD CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID TO UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID WHICH STATED SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE FOR CAMP DAVID MIDDLE EAST TALKS. SAUDIS DID NOT LIKE IDEA OF RETURN TO GENEVA AND THEREFORE BELIEVED IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR CAMP DAVID TALKS TO SUCCEED. ABDALLAH ALSO REPORTED THAT SAUDIS BELIEVED THAT IF CAMP DAVID TALKS FAILED AND U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON HOW KEY ISSUES COULD BE BRIDGED ARE REBUFFED, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL PUT FORWARD ITS OWN PROPOSALS. I COMMENTED THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION OF ANY KIND TO CONFIRM THIS LATTER VIEW.

3. RASHID ABDALLAH THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT UAE POSITION ON CAMP DAVID MIDDLE EAST TALKS IS SAME AS SAUDI ARABIA'S. WHILE UAE CONTINUES

TO DOUBT THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL BE REASONABLE, IT DOES NOT SHARE VIEWS RECENTLY STATED TO PRESS BY KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER AL SABAH (KUWAIT 4510).

RASHID ABDALLAH DID NOT OFFER TO HAVE UAE MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT
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IN SUPPORT OF CAMP DAVID TALKS SIMILAR TO THAT MADE BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD; THIS MATTER IN ANY EVENT WOULD REQUIRE SHAIKH ZAYID'S APPROVAL, SOMETHING WHICH ZAYID MIGHT WISH TO DEFER UNTIL HE CONSULTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI WHO IS STILL AWAY ON LEAVE. HOWEVER, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, I WILL SEEK ENCOURAGE UAEG TO MAKE ITS IDENTITY OF VIEWS WITH SAUDIS ON CAMP DAVID BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN.

4. LEAVE IT TO DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO REPEAT THIS MESSGAE TO JIDDA AND KUWAIT. SINCE ABD AL RAMAN AL MANSOURI ALSO STOPPED IN QATAR AND OMAN, PRESUMABLY TO CONVEY SIMILAR VIEWS TO THESE COUTRIES. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH ALSO TO REPEAT TO DOHA AND MUSCAT.
DICKMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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